

Message Text

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70

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EG

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANY,
AGENT OF AMERICAN EXPORT LINES (AEL)

1. SENIOR OFFICIAL OF AEL TELEPHONED ON JULY 8 TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF CABLE THEY RECEIVED FROM ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANY, A PRIVATELY-OWNED EGYPTIAN SHIPPING AGENCY WHICH AEL HAD ENGAGED IN OCTOBER 1974 PRIMARILY TO SERVE AS THEIR AGENT FOR SUEZ CANAL PASSAGES.

2. CABLE INFORMED AEL THAT GOVERNMENT-OWNED SHIPPING AGENT TO WHOM AEL HAD BEEN ASSIGNED PRIOR TO 1967 HAS TAKEN LEGAL ACTION TO STOP ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANY FROM SERVING AS AEL'S AGENT. IN ITS CABLE, ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANY REQUESTED THAT AEL CABLE PRESIDENT SADAT AND EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER TO ASK THEM TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING DISPUTE IN FAVOR OF ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANY. AS AEL UNDERSTANDS SITUATION, EGYPTIAN LAW 65-74 ALLOWS PRIVATE CORPORATIONS SUCH AS ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANY TO

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OPERATE BUT APPARENTLY THIS LAW IS SILENT ON MATTER OF

PRE-EXISTING GOVERNMENT-OWNED SHIPPING AGENTS TO WHOM
SHIPPING LINES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ASSIGNED.

3. AEL REPORTS THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR AND EGYPTIAN PRIME
MINISTER ATTENDED OCT. 1974 SIGNING OF CONTRACT BETWEEN
ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION COMPANY AND AEL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY PLEASE PROVIDE BACKGROUND
INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THIS MATTER AND ANY SUGGESTIONS
ON ADVICE DEPT. SHOULD OFFER AEL ON WHAT COURSE OF
ACTION IT SHOULD TAKE. IN PARTICULAR, AEL WISHES TO
KNOW WHETHER THEY SHOULD STAY OUT OF THIS APPARENTLY
INTERNAL EGYPTIAN DISPUTE, OR WHETHER IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL
TO CABLE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK CLARIFICATION ON
WHETHER THEY MAY CONTINUE TO HAVE ALEXANDRIA SHIPPING
AND NAVIGATION COMPANY SERVE AS THEIR AGENTS. KISSINGER

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